

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 8561

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PROP, SOPN, SW

SUBJECT: OPINION SURVEY IN SWEDEN FINANCED BY RFE AND RL

1. SWEDISH TV NEWS FEATURE SHOW "RAPPORT" REPORTED FRIDAY EVENING THAT SIFO (SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY) IS CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY AMONG TOURISTS FROM EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AT THE REQUEST OF RL AND RFE IN ORDER TO LOCATE AMONG THEM POSSIBLE DEFECTORS. THE ORDER FOR THE SURVEY, ACCORDING TO RAPPORT, WAS PLACED BY ONE STEN SAUERBERG ON BEHALF OF RFE AND RL WHO HANDLED SIMILAR ASSIGNMENTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS WHEN RFE WAS STILL RECEIVING FUNDS FROM THE CIA. RAPPORT CLAIMED THAT A DIRECT CONNECTION CAN BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THOSE "CIA SURVEYS" OF FORMER YEARS AND THE SIFO SURVEY NOW IN PROGRESS.

2. TODAY'S DAGENS NYHETER (INDEPENDENT; LEADING SWEDISH MORNING DAILY) CARRIES FRONT PAGE ARTICLE SUMMARIZING RAPPORT STORY AND QUOTING AT LENGTH SIFO DIRECTOR HANS ZETTERBERG REJECTING RAPPORT'S ALLEGATIONS UNDER HEADING "WE ARE NOT SPIES IN AMERICAN PAY." ACCORDING TO ZETTERBERG SIFO HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A CONSORTIUM OF INTERNATIONAL RADIO SERVICES,
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INCLUDING BBC, RFE AND RL, WHICH ARE INTERESTED IN

FINDING OUT ABOUT THE EXTENT OF LISTENING TO WESTERN RADIO'S IN EAST EUROPE. SIMILAR SURVEYS, HE STATES, ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN SUCH PLACES AS LONDON, PARIS, VIENNA, COPENHAGEN. SIFO AGREED, HE SAID, TO CONDUCT TEST INTERVIEWS THIS SUMMER AMONG 30-ODD TOURISTS FROM POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY IN ORDER TO DETERMINE FREQUENCY OF LISTENING TO BROADCASTS BY THESE STATIONS. THE QUESTIONNAIRE DEVELOPED BY RFE'S HENRY O. HART ALSO INCLUDES QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INTERVIEWEE'S PARTY PREFERENCES IF THERE WERE SEVERAL POLITICAL PARTIES IN HIS OR HER HOME COUNTRY. SIFO, ACCORDING TO ZETTERBERG, HAS TO DATE RECEIVED SKR 5,000 FOR THESE TEST INTERVIEWS; THEY WILL BE, HE SAID, EVALUATED THIS FALL IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER SIFO WANTS TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THE CLIENT RADIO SERVICES. HE REJECTED THE ALLEGATION THAT THE INTERVIEWS COULD BE USED TO RECRUIT AGENTS OR LOCATE POTENTIAL DEFECTORS; THEY WERE ANONYMOUS AND THE INTERVIEWEES WERE NEVER ASKED TO GIVE THEIR NAMES OR OTHER PERSONAL DATA.

3. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS FULL BACKGROUND INFORMATION WHICH THE DEPARTMENT AND THE INFO ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE ON ANY EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN US INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING AGENCIES AND SIFO OR OTHER SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS IN SWEDEN.
SMITH

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